

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY S/ PRS: WBROWN: RTYNER: HHB

5/15/73 X22454

APPROVED BY S/ PRS - ROBERT W. HOLLIDAY

S/ S - MR. BARNES

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P 151752 Z MAY 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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TOSEC 40

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ROGERS, WILLIAM P.)

SUBJECT: RADIO/ TV HIGHLIGHTS

1. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS IN THE EVENING OF MONDAY MAY 14 AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING CONCERNED TWO MATTERS: THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF GOLD AND THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR (A RELATIONSHIP TO WATERGATE WAS NOTED) AND THE FORTHCOMING KISSINGER- LE DUC THO PARIS MEETING. EXCERPTS FROM STORIES ON THESE SUBJECTS ARE NOTED BELOW. THE SECRETARY' S VISIT TO MANAGUA WAS BRIEFLY NOTED ON THE CRONKITE SHOW, CBS/ TV, MAY 14 TH, AND HIS ARRIVAL IN CARACAS WAS CARRIED ON THIS MORNING' S RADIO.

2. LLOYD DOBBINS, NBC/ TV NIGHTLY NEWS FROM PARIS EVENING MAY 14: "... IN ONE OF THE FIRREST PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE THO SAID THERE WOULDN' T BE ANY MEETING IF THE U. S. BOMBED TERRITORY HELD BY THE VIET- CONG IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE INSISTED THAT FOUR BOMBING ATTACKS WERE MADE MAY 9 TH AND HE SAID, ONE MORE AND THERE WON' T BE AN TALKS, OR IF THE TALKS HAD ALREADY STARTED HE WOULD WALK OUT. ... HE ACCUSED THE U. S. AND SOUTH VIETNAM OF REPEATEDLY, SYSTEMATICALLY BREAKING THE PEACE AGREEMENTS AND HE WENT INTO DETAILS:

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THE BOMBING OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA, THE SUSPENSION OF THE ECONOMIC TALKS, THE HALTING OF MINE CLEARING OPERATIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM. DESPITE THE TOUGH TONE OF THE STATEMENT THO IS HERE BECAUSE HE IS WILLING TO TALK. ..."

3. CHARLES COLLINGWOOD, CBS RADIO FROM LONDON MORNING MAY 15: " GOLD WENT UP AND THE DOLLAR WENT DOWN AGAIN ON THE EUROPEAN MONEY MARKET THIS MORNING. ... THERE IS A CAUSE AND EFFECT FACTOR AT WORK HERE BECAUSE MOST TRADERS SEEM TO BE SELLING DOLLARS TO BUY GOLD. ... THERE ARE SOME FEARS THAT THIS INTERACTION MAY POINT TO AN EVENTUAL NEW INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CRISIS. ALTHOUGH MANY STRICTLY ECONOMIC ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING LONDON PRESTIGIOUS FINANCIAL TIMES POINTS ITS FINGER STRAIGHT AT INTERNAL AMERICAN POLITICS. THE MAIN FACTOR IT SAYS FLATLY IS APPREHENSION ABOUT THE WATERGATE SCANDAL."

4. GEORGE WATSON, ABC/ TV FROM LONDON EVENING MAY 14: " THE SOARING PRICE OF GOLD OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS CONTINUING FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY OVER THE VALUE OF PAPER MONEY IN GENERAL AND THE DOLLAR IN PARTICULAR. ..."

5. MARVIN KALB BEGAN HIS CBS FIRST LINE REPORT ON RADIO THIS MORNING AS FOLLOWS: WARNING, THIS BROADCAST IS NOT ABOUT WATERGATE. IT IS ABOUT LAOS, AND WATERGATE IS THE NEWS THESE DAYS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS: "... WHY AFTER THE VIETNAM AGREEMENTS DOES THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION STILL THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO SUPPORT A FOREIGN MERCENARY ARMY IN LAOS? ... IN OTHER WORDS THE OFFICIAL LINE HERE IS THAT THE THAIS THINK IT IS IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST TO HAVE TROOPS IN LAOS AND THE LAOTIANS WANT THEM THERE TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST. THE AMERICANS DO NOT EXPLAIN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE THAI MERCENARIES IN LAOS BY CITING THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH HAD SOME MERIT WHEN THE WAR WAS RAGING IN INDOCHINA AND THERE WERE HALF A MILLION AMERICAN TROOPS THERE. RATHER THE AMERICANS EXPLAIN THEIR SUPPORT BY CITING THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE LAOTIANS AND THE THAIS. QUESTIONS ARISE, IF THE LAOTIANS AND THE THAIS THINK THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST IS AFFECTED BY WHETHER THE THAIS SEND TROOPS INTO LAOS OR NOT THEN WHY

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DON' T THEY PAY FOR THOSE TROOPS. WHAT ABOUT ARTICLE 20 B OF THE VIETNAM PEACE ACCORD WHICH SPECIFICALLY CALLS ON FOREIGN ARMIES TO GET OUT OF CAMBODIA AND LAOS? DOES THE FACT THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATE THIS PROVISION MEAN THAT THE THAIS AND AMERICANS OUGHT TO VIOLATE IT TOO? WHAT IS SO NOBLE ABOUT SELECTIVE VIOLATIONS? FINALLY ALL OF THE OFFICIAL REASONS FOR SUPPORTING THE THAIS IN LAOS

WERE CONCEIVED DURING THE WORST FIGHTING OF THE WAR, IN OTHER WORDS BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, ARE THOSE SAME REASONS STILL VALID. THESE ARE NOT LARGE QUESTIONS, THE SORT THAT NOW GRAB THE HEADLINES BUT THEY ARE INTERESTING ONES WHICH TELL SOMETHING ABOUT THE MENTALITY AND DIRECTION OF U. S. POLICY IN SO- CALLED POST- WAR INDOCHINA."

6. GABBY DABUNAR, CBS RADIO FROM MANILA MORNING MAY 15:
" A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN WHO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY AT A PRESS BRIEFING WOULD NOT COMMENT ON A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE PHILIPPINES WOULD PRESS FOR THE ABROGATION OF THE U. S. BASES AGREEMENT, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE WHOLE RANGE OF MILITARY FACTS COVERING ARMS ASSISTANCE, MUTUAL DEFENSE AND THE STATUS OF U. S. INSTALLATIONS HERE WOULD UNDERGO A MAJOR REVIEW. SOME OF THE PROVISIONS IN THESE TREATIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED BY MOST PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS AS ONEROUS AND ONE SIDED. EARLIER THIS WEEK FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ROMULO SAID ' THAT ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WAS THE REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BASES FROM THE AREA'. ROMULO ALSO SAID ' THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PHILIPPINES WOULD ALWAYS BE UNDER QUESTION FOR AS LONG AS U. S. BASES REMAINED HERE.'"

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE092271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBROWN: RTYNER: HHB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhit.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by daviscw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980217
Subject: RADIO/ TV HIGHLIGHTS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, VE, PFOR, (ROGERS, WILLIAM P)
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005